

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5533

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 0824

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT YO

SUBJ: MILUTINOVIC ON TITO

1. TITO'S CHEF DE CABINET MILUTINOVIC TOLD CHARGE LAST EVENING AT DINNER GIVEN BY NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR THAT PLANNING GOING FORWARD FOR TITO'S MEXICO AND CUBA TRIP BEGINNING EARLY MARCH. HE SAID THAT TITO WAS NOW IN BELGRADE, FULLY RECOVERED FROM THE FLU AND WITH HIS SCIATICA CASE IMPROVING; AND THAT HIS OFFICE WAS WORKING ON "SOME KIND OF EVENT THAT WOULD TAKE PLACE SOON" TO DEMONSTRATE THE PRESIDENT'S RECOVERY. ASKED WHAT THIS EVENT MIGHT BE, HE SAID THAT THEY WERE CONSIDERING A TELEVISION APPEARANCE.

2. MILUTINOVIC SAID THAT RECENT TITO-JANEKOVIC "VJESNIK" INTERVIEW WAS DONE IN THREE SESSIONS: 24 DEC 1975, 3AND 23 JAN OF THIS YEAR. HE SAID INTERVIEW'S EMPHASIS WAS ON DOMESTIC ISSUES, ESPACIALLY QUESTION OF THE PRESIDENT'S HEALTH, BECAUSE "NOT ONLY DO FOREIGNERS ASK THESE QUESTIONS BUT ALSO MANY OF OUR OWN PEOPLE, AND THE PRESIDENT FELT THEY SHOULD BE ANSWERED."

3. MILUTINOVIC SAID CUBAN AGENDA WOULD BE DISCUSSION ON
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NON-ALINGED MATTERS. WHEN ASKED WHETHER CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN

ANGOLA WAS A NON-ALIGNED ISSUE, MILUTINOVIC REPLIED THAT "WE HAVE ALWAYS HAD TROUBLE WITH THE CUBAN NOTION OF EXPORTING REVOLUTION," AND THAT HE DOUBTED VERY MUCH WHETHER TITO WOULD SAY "VIVA EL COMMANDANTE" IN HAVANA. HE WAS MUM, HOWEVER, ON WHAT TITO WOULD SAY.

4. HE MENTIONED THAT THE TRIP WOULD ALSO INCLUDE AN AZORES STOP FOR BRIEF TALK WITH COSTA-GOMES.

5. COMMENT: MILUTINOVIC WORE A SUNNY FACE ALL EVENING ABOUT TITO AND GOY RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. AT ONE POINT WHEN SWISS AND NORWEGIAN AMBASSADORS JOINED IN GENERAL DISCUSSION OF ECONOMICS HE WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO TALK ABOUT THE NECESSITY FOR A RECOVERY IN THE UNITED STATES ECONOMY BECAUSE OF THE "LEADERSHIP" ROLE THE AMERICAN ECONOMY EXERCISED VIS-A-VIS WEST EUROPE AND YUGOSLAVIA.
SWEITZER

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